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March 1-3, 2019
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PHILLY

MAKE ROOM FOR THE BLOOM

The 2019 Philadelphia Flower Show kicks off this weekend. 10-11

ROB CARDILLO

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The Phillies signed all-star outfielder Bryce Harper to a record 13-year, $330 million contract. 17

VSiN metro BET
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WKND

WELCOME TO WKND

MOLLY GIVEN, PHILADELPHIA FEATURES EDITOR

The 2019 Philadelphia Flower Show opens this weekend, and this year is going to be better than ever. Flower lovers, floral enthusiasts and curious Philadelphians will be entranced by the gorgeous displays, unique activities and all-around flower power. I'm also excited to check out the FTD World Cup at the show, the most prestigious floral design competition in the world — it's something you'll just have to see to believe. There's something for everyone of any age at the show. It's truly a fantastic kickoff to the impending spring season (hopefully it will bring in the warm weather as well). For more, see pages 10-11.

TWEETS

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For everything you've done for the Eagles and for the city of Philadelphia...

Thank you, Nick Foles.

YOUR WEEKEND STARTS NOW

ARTS & CULTURE

FringeArts High Pressure Fire Service Festival

This innovative festival showcases and highlights the exceptional talent of Philadelphia's rich performing arts community. The festival kicks off with "A Fierce Kind of Love" by Suli Holum. The show chronicles the untold story of Pennsylvania's Intellectual Disability Rights Movement. Many incredible shows will follow suit, each with their own message, purpose and talent. The festival opens this weekend and will run until June. **March 1- June 22, various times, FringeArts, 140 N. Columbus Blvd., prices vary, fringearts.com**

First Friday

On the first Friday of each month Old City's galleries, studios, shops and restaurants open their doors for First Friday, a unique and memorable exhibition of the neighborhood's vibrant arts scene. All of the galleries, studios, shops, bars and restaurants participating are offering drink specials, delicious food, live music and much more. **March 1, 6- 10 p.m., various locations, Old City, prices vary, oldcitydistrict.org**

MUSIC

"Calling All Divas"

This fun and colorful production embodies and celebrates the hits of music's greatest divas through the decades. All of the fabulous divas who have graced the music world from pop to country to rock are showcased during this jukebox musical that tells the tale of four incredible women competing to become the next big diva. World-renowned live show specialist Michael LaFleur will be directing the show when it comes to Philly for one night only. **March 2, 8 p.m., Keswick Theatre, 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside, $37.50-$75, keswicktheatre.com**

GOING OUT

Flower-themed drink at Fork's Afternoon Tea. FORK

Flower Show Tea at Fork

Fork's wildly popular tea is back by popular demand, and in honor of the Philadelphia Flower Show this weekend they are featuring fresh and floral teas from around the world and a flower-inspired menu of tasty bites. The afternoon tea is the perfect way to spend your Saturday, and with the fun and fresh theme you'll feel like spring may actually be right around the corner. **March 2 and 9, noon and 2 p.m., Fork, 306 Market St., forkrestaurant.com**

State Fair at "Bridges of Madison County"

Philadelphia Theatre Company's smash hit production "Bridges of Madison County" is hosting a State Fair Extravaganza before both of their performances (1 p.m. and 7 p.m.) on March 2. Bill Dooley will be playing the banjo before the first performance, and before the second performance audience members will get to meet some four-legged friends from the Philly Goat Project. There will also be popcorn, Moon Pies, lemonade, free games, guessing contests, photo cut-outs and much more. **March 2, before the 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. shows, Philadelphia Theatre Company, 480 S. Broad St., prices vary, philadelphiatheatrecompany.org**

FOOD & DRINKS

Sourdough Workshop

Who doesn't love this tasty, carb-filled treat? Philadelphians can learn how to make delicious and bakery-quality sourdough by attending this fun workshop hosted by John McGrath. Each guest will have the opportunity to mix, portion and take home a piece of dough to shape and bake. There's also the option to leave with some sourdough starter of your own. Guests will also receive a recipe and reference handout to help guide their home baking efforts. **March 3, 3-5 p.m., La Colombe Fishtown Cafe, 1335 Frankford Ave., $50, lacolombe.com**

Philly Whiskey Walk

All whiskey lovers, unite: This event is perfect for you. Guests who attend this spirited walk will make their way from eight different bars including Fox & Hound, Tir Na Nog and Veda while sampling different whiskeys at each bar. Whiskey drinkers can enjoy their beverage neat, on the rocks or with soda. **March 2, noon-10 p.m., Fox & Hound, 1501 Spruce St., $70-$138, foxandhound.com**

FAMILY

L.M. Elliott at the MOAR

Celebrate women of the Revolution during Women's History Month at the MOAR with L.M. Elliott. This weekend the New York Times best-selling author will be at the museum to discuss and sign her book all about Revolutionary icon Peggy Schuyler and her relationship to Alexander Hamilton. Elliott will lead a ticketed workshop (geared toward ages 11-15) and share how she used historical documents, letters, journals and memoirs to create a dramatic, fact-based story. **March 3, 2 p.m., Museum of the American Revolution, 101 S. 3rd St., $15-$25,amrevmuseum.org**

Harlem Globetrotters

The world-famous Harlem Globetrotters are dribbling to the City of Brotherly Love with their incredibly exciting show. The stunts, tricks and overall electricity make this spectacle one that you will never forget. The Globetrotters will be in the city from Friday, March 1, until Sunday, March 3, and two of their shows will be at the Wells Fargo Center. **March 1-3, venues vary, prices vary, harlemglobetrotters.com**

GOING OUT

Philadelphia Mardi Gras Bar Crawl

It's time to celebrate Mardi Gras, Philly-style, with an epic bar crawl this weekend. Philadelphians can get amped up with plenty of beads and feathers while drinking around some of Old City's best bars. The venues will have exclusive drink specials, free cover, free prizes and giveaways. **March 2, 4-10 p.m., JJ Bootleggers, 35 S. 2nd St., $20-$30, jjbootleggers.com**

It's shaping up to be a wet weekend in the Northeast, which means it's the perfect time to cuddle up on the couch for a bit of chilling and television. Thankfully, there's plenty of programs worth tuning in to that are perfect for every kind of TV fan. From singing-competition series to thrilling new dramas, here are the best things to watch on TV this weekend. MATT JUUL

"THE WIDOW"

March 1 on Amazon Prime

Kate Beckinsale takes a crack at the small screen with the new series "The Widow," debuting Friday on Amazon Prime. The actress stars as Georgia Wells in the thriller, a British woman whose husband (Matthew Le Nevez) supposedly dies in a plane crash. However, three years later, Wells has reason to believe that her husband is still alive and decides to travel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to find him.

"AMERICAN IDOL"

March 3 at 8 p.m. on ABC

They're back! The long-running singing-competition series returns for its second season on ABC this weekend. While Simon Cowell and the original judges are long gone, host Ryan Seacrest is still there, and there's no shortage of star power on the judges' panel thanks to Katy Perry, Lionel Richie and Luke Bryan. Season 17 of "American Idol" kicks off on Sunday night.

"GOOD GIRLS"

March 3 at 10 p.m. on NBC

NBC's hit crime comedy-drama is back for another heist. If you haven't seen "Good Girls" yet, the series revolves around a trio of struggling mothers who decide to get theirs by robbing a supermarket, played by Christina Hendricks, Mae Whitman and Retta. Season 1 is on Netflix if you need to catch up, while season 2 of "Good Girls" is set to premiere on Sunday night.

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Family *food* feud

"Family Food Showdown" premieres March 3. ANDERS KRUSBERG/ FOOD NETWORK

"Family Food Showdown" premieres March 3 on Food Network. MOLLY GIVEN

Food Network's latest cooking competition series features a lot of talent, flavor and family dynamics. Valerie Bertinelli is hosting the delicious network's new competition "Family Food Showdown", and this show is unlike any that have aired on Food Network before.

The show centers around two families facing off in an intense three-round challenge where their culinary and communication skills are tested. Bertinelli chatted with Metro about how she was made to host this show, the heightened drama that comes with family teams and what surprises may be in store for contestants and audiences.

Valerie Bertinelli hosts "Family Food Showdown"

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Bertinelli is no stranger to being in front of the camera. Many may recognize the actress from "One Day at a Time," "Hot in Cleveland" or from her hosting gigs on Food Network with "Valerie's Home Cooking" and the "Kids Baking Championships." Now the Delaware native is hosting a show that suits her as well as spaghetti suits meatballs.

"This is just a perfect part for me," Bertinelli said. "It speaks to who I am. It's how I learned to cook, it's how I got the passion for what I do now- through my family."

Testing the limits of family relationships is difficult enough; add a timed challenge, panel of judges and tv cameras and you've got a recipe for one intense competition show. "It definitely heightens the drama. You really see the family dynamics come out, and then when we get to the second round and all the surprises start happening- it truly does come out."

The surprises Bertinelli refers to are quite common with cooking competitions. Other notable shows throw in surprise ingredients, limit contestant's resources or have them come up with insane creations on the spot. It not only makes for a great show, but it also keeps everyone on their toes. "Family Food Showdown" is no different. Bertinelli says the surprises were so intense that she wanted to film another installment to the series before the first 13 episodes aired.

"It definitely heightens the drama. You really see the family dynamics come out, and then when we get to the second round and all the surprises start happening—it truly does come out."

"I was hoping we could get another 13 in before anybody sees the show because what happens after the first round is really shocking for the families, so I don't want to give it away—but jaws dropped every single day."

Aside from Bertinelli hosting, there is an impressive panel of judges, some of whom return for multiple episodes in the series. Kardea Brown, Clinton Kelly, Antonia Lofaso, Daphne Oz, Jamika Pessoa, Christian Petroni and many more all appear on "Family Food Showdown" alongside Bertinelli and ultimately choose the fates of the culinary clad families.

"We get our judges coming back a few times, they are just really good at getting to the nitty gritty about why a dish works or why it doesn't without being hurtful- they're very compassionate. There's a lot of fun people who have come on and really know their stuff," says Bertinelli.

The first round of the competition requires families to cook a dish that symbolizes who they are as a family, this is not an easy task and Bertinelli knows that. When asked what dish she would cook for the first round the Food Network vet thought out loud, "Oh gosh, I don't know. Lasagna keeps coming to my head because that was the very first thing I learned how to cook—I think I was 9 or 10, but that speaks to me. It depends on which family members I'm with and how we would want to explain who our family is—it's not an easy task."

"Family Food Showdown" premieres on Food Network on March 3 at 8 p.m.

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The Secret Chicken 2.0 at Libertine. MIKE PRINCE

Where to eat in Philadelphia this weekend

The best places for dining, drinking and enjoying. **MOLLY GIVEN**

Jerry's Bar
Northern Liberties has become a hot spot for foodies. It seems that new and amazing eateries pop up every single day. But none are quite like the cozy neighborhood spot Jerry's Bar. Jerry's Bar takes the bar scene up a notch by serving not only craft beer, but also specialty cocktails, fine wine and plenty of delicious food. Menu items include pan-fried mozzarella, duck confit spring rolls, homemade pierogis, pork milanese, parmesan fried brussel sprouts and much more. Philadelphians can indulge in these tasty dishes while sipping on an Old Fashioned, Jerry's Hot Cider, Lavender Moon or, if you're there for brunch, an assortment of mimosas and Bloody Mary variations. *129 W. Laurel St., jerrysbarphilly.com*

Royal Izakaya
Royal Izakaya keeps a low profile. There's not a lot of pictures, not a lot of info on their website and a no-reservation policy. In fact, there isn't even a sign, just a bright blue door that acts as the gateway to this incredible eatery. But once you dine at Royal Izakaya, you understand why it is so indulgently special that it only makes sense to keep it a bit hush. Otherwise, it would be impossible to dine there with everyone knowing Philly's best-kept secret. Menu items include spinach ohitashi, grilled avocado, beef tataki, tuna guac, a plethora of yakitori and kushiyaki, plus plenty of mouthwatering sashimi and sushi options. Royal Izakaya also boasts an incredible drink selection with many one-of-a-kind spirits that you can't find anywhere else in the city. *780 S. 2nd St., royalsushiandizakaya.com*

Libertine
Libertine perfectly captures upscale food with a playful, chic and stylish atmosphere, making it the perfect spot for a night out with friends, family or that special someone. The Center City hot spot has a rotating menu that is planned seasonally around what is available and freshest at the markets, plus their cocktails are enticing, delicious and so detailed you'll have to have two... or four. Menu items include fried chicken skins, fresh ricotta dumplings, baked lamb meatballs, a lobster burger and much more. Plus, the desserts are all heavenly and made from scratch. Guests can indulge in mouthwatering options such as a campfire s'mores flourless chocolate cake, carnival style funnel cake, coconut milk panna cotta and much, much more. Libertine is also open for brunch and has a late-night, half-price happy hour where customers can order the Secret Chicken 2.0 for only $12 and more. *261 S. 13th St., libertinephilly.com*

Spice Finch
When you dine at Spice Finch you feel like you've been transported out of Philly and planted right in the heart of the Mediterranean. The cuisine is authentic, the atmosphere is airy and warm and the dining experience at this Center City hot spot is one that you will never forget. Delectable menu items include date truffles, stuffed grape leaves, lamb ribs, charred octopus, baked cheese, chocolate tahini cake and much more. All of these menu items pair perfectly with their unique cocktail menu that has plenty to choose from, including gourmet frozen options. The experience at Spice Finch is what keeps patrons coming back for more. The food is unique yet comforting and the ambience allows diners to sit back and relax while still feeling stylish and refined. *220 S. 17th St., spicefinchphilly.com*

El Rey
If you are looking for a place to unwind, drink some enticing margaritas, indulge in flavorful cuisine and let your hair down, El Rey is the spot to go. The atmosphere is playful, lively and more than pleasurable. Dining at El Rey is always a fiesta, especially after you down a few of their insanely delicious flavored margaritas. Menu items include tuna ceviche, campechana, zucchini blossom and corn quesadilla, pambazo, chile relleno, a duck carnitas platter, plenty of taco options and much more. *2013 Chestnut St., elreyrestaurant.com*

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WEEK 4: 2/25-3/3/19

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How Pennsylvania's economy can benefit from the legalization of recreational marijuana

new LEAF on life

Here's how the numbers add up.

Business is booming for dispensaries in Pennsylvania since the sale of medical marijuana went into effect last February.

According to a recent report by Philly.com, medical marijuana dispensaries have grossed $132 million in total sales over the past year, while the Commonwealth has collected more than $2 million from growers and processors who pay a 5 percent excise tax on the gross receipts from medical marijuana sales to the dispensaries, per the state's Medical Marijuana Program. Although Pennsylvania has clearly benefited from medical marijuana sales, it's only a fraction of the impact that recreational marijuana sales could potentially have on the state's economy.

While the legalization of recreational marijuana is still being hotly debated at both the state and federal levels, Pew Research Center polling shows that 62 percent of the country is in favor of legalizing cannabis for recreational adult use. Meanwhile in Pennsylvania, a 2017 poll by Franklin & Marshall College shows that 59 percent of voters support legalization.

But what exactly are the benefits of legalizing marijuana for recreational use? Generally speaking, states that have legalized recreational marijuana have seen huge economic gains, such as Colorado, which became the first state to do so when its citizens voted to legalize the use of recreational marijuana back in 2012.

Colorado newspaper The Gazette recently reported that the state has seen huge economic growth since marijuana legalization went into effect. Recreational and medical marijuana sales hit a record $1.51 billion in 2017, generating "more economic output than 90 percent of all other industries in the state."

Many other states have followed suit, with Washington, California, Oregon, Nevada, Alaska, Michigan, Vermont, Massachusetts and Maine all having legalized recreational use in recent years. The total economic impact is a little bit harder to gauge than Colorado for many of these states, as some have only recently voted on the issue. But the excitement is certainly there. For example, according to a report by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission, consumers in the state spent $2.2 million within the first five days of dispensaries being allowed to sell recreational marijuana last November.

But what does this increase in taxable revenue on marijuana sales really mean? For Colorado, it's resulted in the state having a surplus of resources that it never had before. It was reported by the Colorado Department of Revenue that the state had earned a revenue of $21,501,134 to date in 2019, with a total of $927,009,550 in revenue since the state chose to legalize recreational marijuana in 2012. This has lead to an increase in property value in the area, with the Economic Inquiry reporting that housing values had increased an average of 6 percent.

As for what Pennsylvania can expect, State Auditor General Eugene DePasquale has already looked into the possibilities of what taxing revenue on recreational sales would look like, and he believes that the results would be very similar to Colorado. In a report DePasquale released back in July, he projected that the legalization of recreational marijuana would bring in $580 million dollars' worth of taxable revenue for the state.

While the legalization of recreational marijuana is still to be determined in Pennsylvania, the data shows that it can only help to boost a state's economy in the long run.

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WEEK 4: 2/25-3/3/19

Escape to flower land

The Philadelphia Flower Show begins this weekend.

MOLLY GIVEN

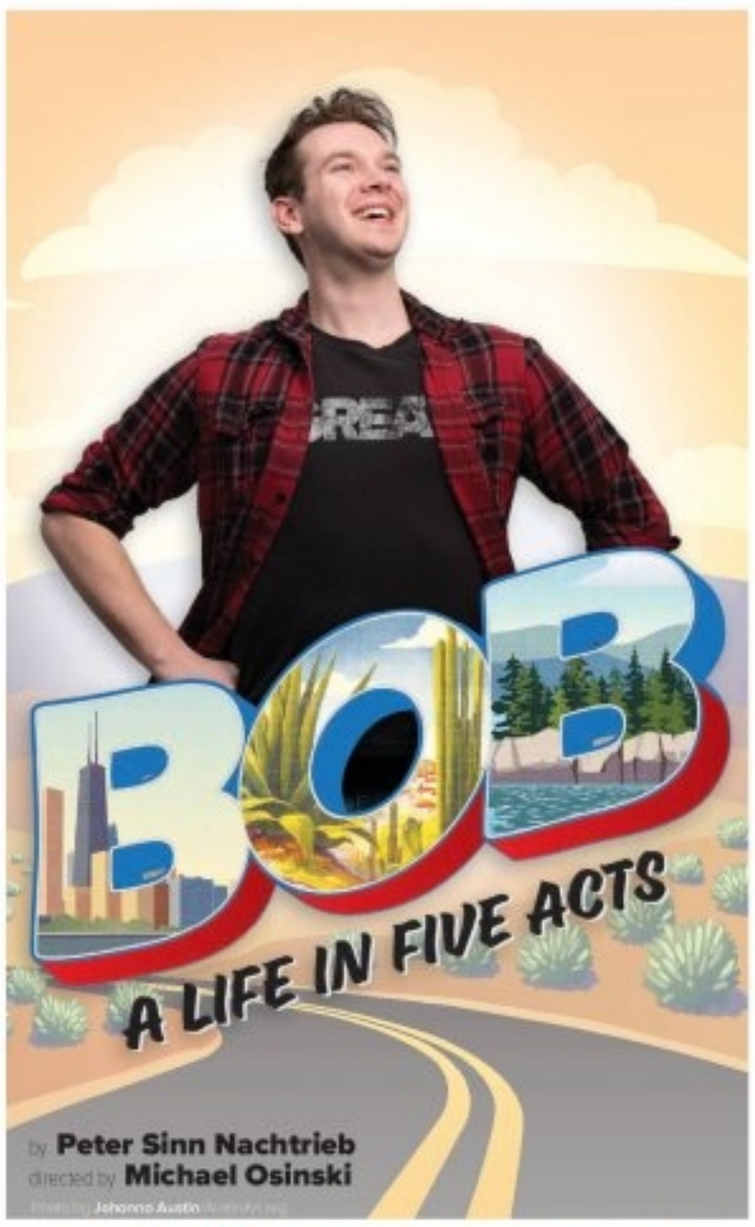
Top floral designers show off their work at the show. PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

The past few months have been chilly, snowy and windy; many Philadelphians are looking for the first signs of spring. Well, fear no more. The Philadelphia Flower Show starts this weekend, and the flower power will get anyone out of the winter blues and into a floral-filled good mood.

The fun starts with the Preview Party Gala on March 1 (7 p.m.). Philadelphians can celebrate the kickoff of the Flower Show at this black-tie-optional fundraiser and indulge in the exclusive opportunity to experience the gorgeous displays before they open to the public. Plus, guests can snack on tasty treats, sip on refreshing cocktails and jam out to the sounds of Beatles tribute band The Beat Tells. Any flower lover can purchase a Preview Party ticket at theflowershow.com/preview-party or by calling 215-988-8830.

The Flower Show has always been innovative and unique with its exhibits, and this year is no different. The Imaginative Gardens boasts 10 acres of life-size landscapes, garden vignettes and floral displays. The Plants Galore section brings a veritable plant catalog to life with thousands of perfectly groomed plants (all competing for a blue ribbon in the largest horticulture competition in the states). The Gardeners Studio will host gardening demonstrations presented by experts from around the country, and the Designer's Studio will showcase top floral designers as they go head-to-head in an exciting floral competition.

The biggest draw, however, is the FTD World Cup 2019. This competition has been called the world's most prestigious floral design competition, and it will be live right here in the City of Broth-



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The preview and after-hours events are always a party.

erly Love. Designers from 23 countries will be creating over-the-top and extraordinary floral displays and designs throughout the show. It's truly a sight you will have to see to believe.

Other fun activities at the PFS include Butterflies Live where guests can feed the cute little insects and learn about them as well, a Make & Take station where anyone can show off their DIY skills, and a Garden Tea where flower lovers can indulge in assorted fine teas paired with petite sandwiches, pastries and fruit.

After spending the day admiring everything the Flower Show has to offer, Philadelphians can also celebrate at the groovy Flowers After Hours event on March 2 (8:30 p.m.). Guests will travel back to the era of Beatlemania by dancing the night away to their greatest hits and joining in on interactive flower power-inspired games and fun programs. Plus, there will be a cash bar and liquor tastings serving up Baileys Strawberry & Cream (served over ice cream), Ketel One Botanicals cocktails and much more. Tickets are $75 in advance (purchase on official site) and $85 at the door. The best part? Guests can experience all the magical exhibits during the exclusive event as well after they close to the public.

Furry four-legged friends are also welcome at the PFS on Friday, March 8. From 6 to 9 p.m., dogs are allowed in for free (humans still need a ticket) on Fido Friday. There are also early-morning tour options including a photography tour. For an extra cost, you can get exclusive access to the bloomiest show in town.

The Philadelphia Flower Show runs from March 2 (PHS preview is March 1) until March 10 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center (1101 Arch St.). Hours vary depending on what type of events you wish to attend and the day. Prices also vary depending on if you are a PHS member, what events you wish to participate in and if you buy a pack at a specialty price. The PFS has partnered up with SpotHero and the Loews Hotel for parking and accommodations. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit theflowershow.com.

Kate

The Unexamined Life

By Rick Foster

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Fun things to do in Philly this month

2 Philadelphia Craft Beer Festival
March 2

Sample over 200 brews from notable breweries such as Flying Fish, Goose Island and many more. **March 2, 1:30-5 p.m., The Navy Yard, 4747 S. Broad St. #120, $14-$50**

2 Philadelphia Flower Show
March 2

The annual extravaganza is filled with all things horticulture and floral with workshops, exhibits, tours and more. **March 2-10, times vary, Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch St., $17-$38**

7 Michelle Wolf
March 7

The comedic superstar is coming to Philly to perform her stand-up over the course of two hilarious days. **March 7-8, times vary, Punch Line Philly, 33 E. Laurel St., $36**

9 Clüb 13
March 9

The Mütter Museum is transforming into Clüb 13 for a sultry party featuring food, drinks, circus performances and much more. **March 9, 7-11:30 p.m., Mütter Museum, 19 S 22nd St., $181-$208**

9 The B.I.G. Exhibit
March 9

On the anniversary of his death, more than 30 artists will be honoring Notorious B.I.G. with their moving works of art. **March 9, 6-9 p.m., Philly Art Collective, 253 N. 3rd St., free**

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10

Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade March 10

Celebrate the green, beer-filled holiday by heading to JFK Boulevard and admiring the exciting parade. **March 10, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., JFK Boulevard, free**

13

Tokyo Police Club March 13

This band has already made a huge impact on the indie-rock scene, and now they are bringing their talent to Philly. **March 13, 8:30 p.m., Boot & Saddle, 1131 S. Broad St., $20**

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

16

Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Bar Crawl March 16

Celebrate the greatest holiday of the year with a festive bar crawl full of beer, four-leaf clovers, luck and more. **March 16, 2-10 p.m., Howl at the Moon, 258 S. 15th St., $2-$27**

18

The Pixies March 18

The popular alt-rock band is coming to the City of Brotherly Love ahead of their new summer album. **March 18, 7:30 p.m., The Fillmore, 29 E. Allen St., $55**

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READER WRITE-INS:

"MAN-SPREADING"? LEG CROSS!

Who finds it interesting that no one seems to complain about women who CROSS THEIR LEGS on a crowded train?

Everyone complains about "man-spreading." Yet women have their revenge by crossing their legs on a crowded train, or when it's not crowded. Yes, it is annoying to have to deal with men who are inconsiderate with the way they sit with their legs spread wide. I am a man and I find it inconsiderate and selfish at times. But, it should be noted also that women do the "leg cross"! I have had women put their feet on my nice dress pants while in the "leg cross" and didn't apologize!

The important thing is that we should all be more aware of our behavior on the trains and maybe there won't be so much antagonism toward each other. This is a two-way street!

— **Anonymous,** *Metro US reader*

WALKING UP SUBWAY STAIRS

What I can't understand is that most people can't chew bubblegum and walk at the same time; now, they're trying to read their phone messages/text while walking up the subway stairs, slow and unsteady. Not to mention, what can be so important that can't wait until you reach the top of the stairs?

Perhaps we now need laws preventing people from walking and texting/reading, like what's in effect for drivers. Have we become a "digitalization nation"? Too stupid to do just the basic functions in life without the phone? Unbelievable!!

— **Anonymous,** *Metro US reader*

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ISTOCK

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Aries Letting go of the past will free you to do as you please. Don't worry about what you can't do when you can thrive using what's available to you.

Taurus If you put some muscle behind your ideas, you will flourish. Take the helm and present what you have to offer. You must take the lead if you want to win.

Gemini You may not get what you want if you are too trusting. Consider every angle before you align yourself with someone who may be a good talker with little substance.

Cancer Rise to the occasion. Don't fret when you should be using your imagination to come up with innovative solutions. An important partnership will grow stronger.

Leo A chance to make a change needs to be looked at carefully. If you miss an important element of a deal, you could end up scrambling. Broaden your vision and look for loopholes.

Virgo Ramp up the energy and put your heart into whatever task you need to complete. Your performance will be your ticket to gaining respect and bigger challenges.

Libra Keep your emotions out of the equation when faced with opposition. To find a way to convince others to let you do as you please, diplomacy will be required.

Scorpio A passionate approach to whatever you do will bring high returns. Whether it's a personal or a professional matter, energy and enthusiasm will bring the results you are looking for.

Sagittarius Be secretive about the changes you want to make. If someone is privy to your plans, he or she will meddle and cause you setbacks and grief.

Capricorn Say little and do a lot. Clear up loose ends and make changes at home that will add to your comfort. Take better care of your health and emotional well-being.

Aquarius Impulsive actions will have dire consequences. Slow down, take your time and calculate your best move before you plunge into something new. Ask an expert and avoid making a mistake.

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Philadelphia ban on 'cashless' stores signed into law Thursday

Mayor signs legislation that will ban most businesses from operating without accepting cash.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

Some people say "cashless" is the way of future. But not in Philadelphia.

Mayor Jim Kenney signed a bill passed by Philadelphia City Council to ban stores from refusing to accept cash, his office said Thursday. Violations could lead to fines of $2,000.

"With a 26 percent poverty rate in Philadelphia, the mayor believes in equal opportunity for all," Kenney's spokesman Mike Dunn said via email. "Until we can resolve the hurdles facing the unbanked, we need to remove any obstacles that could prevent them from enjoying all amenities of this city — that are readily available to those fortunate enough to have a debit or credit card."

Whether intentionally or not, cashless businesses are effectively discriminating against low-income residents who do not have credit or debit cards, argued City Councilman Bill Greenlee, who introduced the legislation in October.

"Some places are basically saying, 'We don't need your business or want your business here,'" Greenlee previously explained to Metro. "Even if it's not intentional, it's discrimination, because the cashless stores basically exclude a segment of the lower-income, minority, immigrant population."

According to a 2018 survey by the Pew Research Center, 34 percent of African-Americans, 17 percent of Hispanic people and 29 percent of people earning less than $30,000 a year currently rely on cash for all their transactions.

The bill passed Council, 12-4, on Feb. 14. It will affect chains like Sweetgreen and Blue Stone which do not accept cash currently. Neither chain immediately responded to requests for comment.

Greenlee said he was "happy" after the bill was passed into law, and expressed some skepticism of anyone claiming that being required to take cash will be a hardship for some businesses.

"This isn't a new phenomenon of accepting cash," Greenlee said. "When Ben Franklin was walking around, they did it. I don't see it as that onerous on businesses."

Kenney signed the bill despite reports that the bill might prompt mega-retailer Amazon to reconsider its plans to open one of 3,000 planned Amazon Go retail stores in Philadelphia; however, the bill was amended to allow businesses to not use cash if they are paid through a membership model, Greenlee said.

"With all due respect to Amazon or whoever, they can't dictate what we do, and say, 'We won't come unless...' No. We'll work with you, but ultimatums won't work," Greenlee said. "I know they [Amazon] have some issues with it but we think they'll be alright."

Dunn said Kenney had "continued concerns about how this legislation might impact innovation in our retail sector," and "will continue to monitor this" as the bill is rolled out.

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US atty: DA 'isn't putting fear into hearts' of criminals

U.S. Attorney William McSwain is filing new charges against a criminal he says DA Larry Krasner treated too leniently.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Philly U.S. Attorney Bill McSwain accused Philly DA Larry Krasner of "leniency" and announced new charges against Jovaun Patterson (inset). PPD

The war of words between federal officials appointed by President Donald Trump and Philadelphia's progressive local leadership is escalating still further.

Philly federal prosecutor William McSwain announced Thursday that his office is filing new charges against a Philadelphia man who shot a storekeeper in the leg with an AK-47 during an attempted robbery and previously had pleaded guilty to local charges in exchange for a controversial three- to 10-year sentence.

McSwain called the sentence for Jovaun Patterson a "sweetheart deal" and went on to attack Philadelphia DA Larry Krasner as harboring an "anti-law enforcement agenda."

Surveillance video showed Patterson, 30, approach victim Mike Poeng's deli at 54th and Spruce streets in May 2018 toting an AK-47 as Poeng, 50, was outside hosing his car down, and try to shove Poeng into the shop.

Poeng, a refugee from Cambodia, fought back and even sprayed Patterson with his hose before Patterson shot him once in the right leg then fled. Poeng was comatose for weeks after the shooting. He is "now confined to a wheelchair and does not know if he will ever walk again on his own," McSwain said.

Federal charges against Patterson include attempted robbery and using a firearm during a violent crime, and could carry another 20-year sentence. Krasner said the federal indictment was "welcome," stating, "We do feel that there was a mistake made in the handling of this case."

But after announcing the charges, McSwain railed against Philly leaders, blaming Krasner for Philly's uptick in homicides in 2018, his first year in office, and trashing Mayor Jim Kenney's sanctuary city policies.

Philadelphia had 351 homicides in 2018, the highest total in a decade and an 11 percent hike over the year prior, while 1,365 people were shot, also an 11 percent hike over 2017 — while nationally, and in nearby cities like Chester and Camden, those crimes went down.

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Phillies sign Bryce Harper to 13-year, $330 million contract

The 26-year-old Harper now owns the biggest free-agent contract in North American sports history.

JOVAN ALFORD
jovan.alford@metro.us

As spring training continues to press on in both Arizona and Florida, we can finally report that the everlasting Bryce Harper sweepstakes has come to an end.

The Philadelphia Phillies reportedly signed superstar outfielder Bryce Harper to a blockbuster 13-year, $330 million deal on Thursday.

Unlike Manny Machado's 10-year, $300 million deal with the San Diego Padres, ESPN's Jeff Passan reported that Harper's new contract will not have any opt-outs or no-trade clauses. This means that he will spend the rest of his career in Philly.

In addition to those stipulations, Harper now owns the biggest overall free-agent contract in North American sports history, surpassing New York Yankees outfielder Giancarlo Stanton, who signed a massive 13-year, $325 million deal with the Marlins back in 2014.

Throughout the offseason, it was widely reported that the Phillies were the favorite to land the generational talent. ESPN's Buster Olney reported last Sunday that Harper could sign with Philly this week.

However, over the last few weeks, there were various reports that had not only the San Francisco Giants, but also the Los Angeles Dodgers, back in the mix for the superstar outfielder.

The Washington Nationals, Harper's former team, were also in the mix, but the 26-year-old made it clear that he was not going to return by reportedly turning down a 10-year, $330 million deal on the final day of the 2018 regular season.

On Wednesday, Bob Nightengale of USA Today reported that the Phillies, along with the Dodgers and Giants, vowed to give Harper either the biggest overall free-agent contract in North American sports history or the largest AAV (average annual salary) in baseball.

$330 million

While he may not have the largest AAV, which still belongs to Arizona Diamondbacks starting pitcher Zack Greinke, who is making $34.4 million this season, Harper will be joining a talented Phillies team that went out this offseason and upgraded their roster quickly.

Before signing Harper, the Phillies acquired one of baseball's best catchers in J.T. Realmuto from the Miami Marlins in a blockbuster trade earlier this month. In addition to Realmuto, the Phillies acquired all-star infielder Jean Segura in a trade with the Seattle Mariners and signed veterans Andrew McCutchen and David Robertson earlier in the offseason.

Along with those new players, the Phillies still have young first baseman Rhys Hoskins, who slugged a career-high 34 home runs with 96 RBIs in the infield, and a starting rotation led by 2018 NL Cy Young finalist starting pitcher Aaron Nola.

In his final season with the Nationals, Harper slashed .249/.393/.496 with 34 home runs and 100 RBIs. He also drew a career-high 130 walks, but struck out 169 times.

Over his seven-year career, the six-time all-star and former 2015 NL MVP is hitting .279 with 184 home runs and 521 RBIs. However, when it comes to playing at Citizens Bank Park, Harper is slashing. 268/.365/.564 with 14 home runs and 32 RBIs (50 games).

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Phillies' World Series odds shift dramatically with Harper news

One player can make a big difference in futures odds.

MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editorial Director of MetroBet.

ISTOCK

Several weeks back, MetroBet highlighted the rise of the Phillies' 2019 World Series odds thanks to the team's trade for catcher J.T. Realmuto. Most sportsbooks adjusted slightly. But how dramatic does an MLB futures line shift when a team signs arguably the best player in all of baseball?

We found out on Thursday with the news that the Phils had finally inked Bryce Harper to a mammoth contract.

At SugarHouse sportsbook in Philly, here are the changes:

WS: +1200 to +1000
NL: +600 to +500
NL East: +240 to +185
Wins: 87.0 to 88.5

SugarHouse Vice President and General Counsel Evan Davis weighed in on the movement.

"Any speculation regarding whether Bryce Harper would sign with Philadelphia was factored into our futures lines, as is the case with any future uncertainties," Davis told MetroBet shortly after the Harper news broke. "Now that it looks like he'll be wearing Phillies pinstripes, we've seen additional line movement, which reflects that this prior uncertainty has now become a reality."

At FanDuel Sportsbook, which is currently operating online in New Jersey, the Phillies' World Series title odds went from +1800 to +1300. That's an incredible +500 change all due to one player.

With the signing, the Phillies leapfrogged the Braves and Brewers in World Series odds. Here are FanDuel's updated title odds:

Yankees +600
Red Sox +650
Astros +650
Dodgers +750
Indians +1100
Cubs +1200
Phillies +1300
Braves +1400

TWEET OF THE DAY

Morgan Bagg
@MorganBagg

Bryce Harper will be on the Phillies until 2032. Meanwhile the Mets will still be paying Bobby Bonilla till 2035.

Brewers +1400

Vegas oddsmaker Matt Lindeman bumped up the Phillies' win total from 86.5 to 89.5 following the Harper news, changed the National League pennant odds from +700 to +500, and altered the Phils' World Series futures from +1400 to +1000.

At Westgate Superbook, the Phillies went from 14/1 World Series odds Thursday morning to 12/1 odds on Thursday afternoon.

Sports betting 101: What is a point spread?

VSiN

The point spread is another form of betting odds that's very similar to a moneyline bet. The difference is that in addition to predicting who will win the game, the point spread includes a margin of victory. In certain cases — such as in college basketball and college football — there is a huge discrepancy in talent between the two teams playing. In those cases, betting the moneyline is too obvious because it is clear that one team will beat the other. That's when the point spread comes into play, as the oddsmakers will set a line where there is a margin of victory.

* For example, imagine that two teams, the Knicks and 76ers, are facing each other. The Knicks may have odds of +11.5 while the Sixers' odds are -11.5. In this case, the Sixers are favored to win. Just like in the moneyline bet, the negative sign before the number indicates who is expected to win. The number represents the expected margin of victory. If you bet on the Sixers, you need them to win by more than 11.5 points for you to cover your bet. That means they need to win the game by 12 points or more. If you bet the Knicks, that means they can lose by 11 points or less, or win the game, and you still win your bet. It's a way of evening the playing field, even if one team is highly favored to win over the other.

* If, during the actual game, the margin of victory lands exactly on the spread, it is called a push or a tie, and no one wins the bet.

* Point spreads will also have moneyline odds attached. Just like in a moneyline bet, this number indicates what the payout will be in the case of a win. For example, the spread and odds for the Sixers might be (-11.5, -120). This means that the Sixers are favored to win by more than 11.5 points. If you were to make this bet and the Sixers did win by 23 points or more, and you bet $120 on the game, then you would win $100.

GETTY IMAGES

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A Weekend Ticket on the Sixers' showdown with the Warriors as well.

ANTHONY GARGANO

Anthony Gargano is a sports radio host on @97.5TheFanatic in Philadelphia and on FOX Sports Radio.

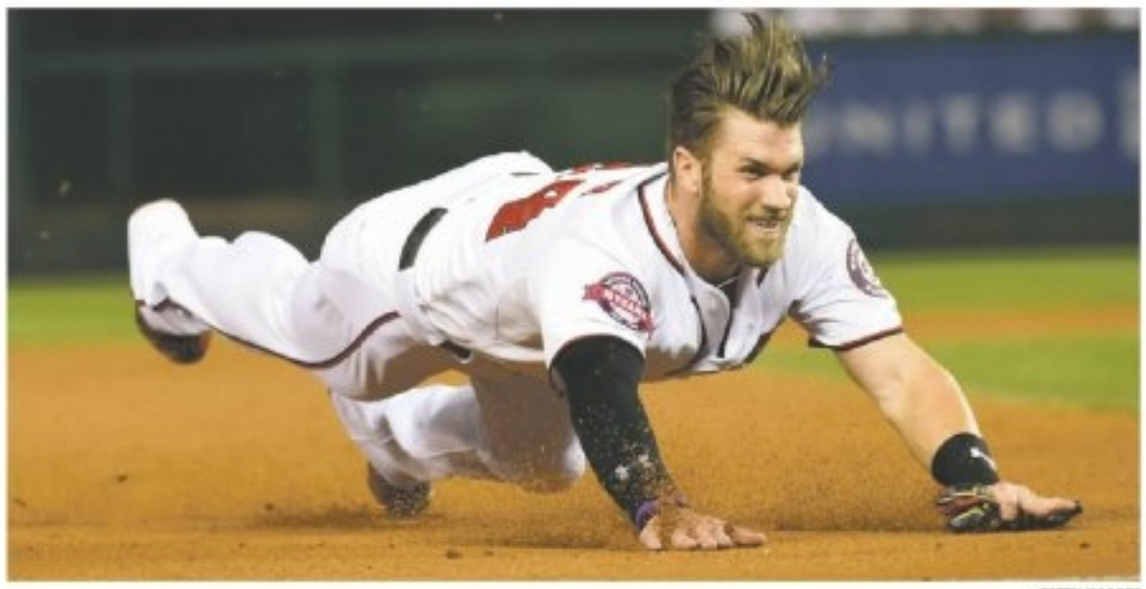
With all due respect to what could be a Finals preview Saturday night, we dedicate this week's Weekend Tickets to baseball "Phutures."

Indeed, after the Phillies finally finalized a deal with Bryce Harper worth $330 million over 13 years, Philadelphia became a must-bet future for:

WS champion (+1300)
NL champion (+500)
Over win total (89.5)

While one player — even a potential MVP candidate — usually only makes a tempered impact on a team's overall outlook, Harper is so good a fit that he propels the Phils into a must-take in all categories.

Harper suddenly balances a lineup that was right-hand-dominant, especially from a power standpoint. Think about it. The Phils' best lineup would have Andrew McCutchen in the leadoff spot follow by the trio of Harper, new catcher J.T. Realmuto and young bopper Rhys Hoskins. Though the feeling is that manager Gabe Kapler will likely bat him second, Harper could break up righties Realmuto and Hoskins.



GETTY IMAGES

While the Phillies' pitching staff is still a major question behind ace Aaron Nola (let's see if Jake Arrieta can be a two instead of a toilet), the Phils could still be in play for lefty Dallas Keuchel since Harper's average per year number is just over $25 million.

And if not, the team does have an outstanding bullpen led by multi-inning weapons Seranthony Dominguez and newcomer David Robertson.

The last time the Phillies won the World Series, back in 2008, they did it with crooked numbers, one ace and a shutdown pen. The precedence has been set. Load up for a bright Phuture.

SIXERS IN PRIME TIME

Philly won in Golden State a few weeks back, but the Warriors played without Klay Thompson. The scene has shifted to the Wells Fargo Center — where the Sixers play much better ball — but any hopes of a sweep depend on whether Joel Embiid is cleared to play. After falling to the Heat earlier this week, we fear the champs will be out for blood against the Sixers. Golden State is a play, as well as the Warriors team total going over.

WEEKEND PICKS

In college basketball, let's go with a Friday play on Miami–Ohio catching a bundle at Buffalo. I've loved the Bulls during this magical season that could extend to the second weekend of the Tourney — but Friday presents a case for the OVERLOOKS.

Look for Miami–O to keep this one closer at home — you'll be getting a bushel — as the Bulls could enter this one seriously disinterested and still win.

Sports on TV Highlights

7:00 pm	**NHL Hockey** Philadelphia Flyers vs. New Jersey Devils	NBC Sports Philadelphia
7:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Penn Quakers vs. Harvard Crimson	ESPNU
7:00 pm	**NHL Hockey** Washington Capitals vs. New York Islanders	ESPN+
8:00 pm	**NHL Hockey** Nashville Predators vs. Winnipeg Jets	ESPN+
8:00 pm	**NBA Basketball** Portland Trail Blazers vs. Toronto Raptors	ESPN
10:30 pm	**NBA Basketball** Milwaukee Bucks vs. Los Angeles Lakers	ESPN

Flyers versus Devils betting preview

The Philadelphia Flyers (30-26-7) face a fairly facile opponent on Friday night in the New Jersey Devils (25-31-8). It seems like the perfect spot for Cam Talbot's long-awaited team debut in the crease, which was delayed from Feb. 16 due to visa issues.

Talbot, who came to prominence as the Rangers' backup several years ago, was considered Edmonton's goalie of the future. Perhaps due to overwork, he's struggled this season. But facing the Devils' punchless offense (21st by goals per game this year) should serve as a confidence-booster. New Jersey has registered just 26.9 shots per game over their last 10 contests.

GETTY IMAGES

The Flyers enter on the tail end of a back-to-back, so they could be fatigued. New Jersey netminder Cory Schneider has been in good form of late, playing to a .959 save percentage in his last five outings. Add to this that Philly has gone below the total in 10 of their last 15 road games, and it's clear that the Under is the way to go.

Prediction: Flyers win, 3-2
The play: Flyers vs. Devils Under

ROBERT CRISCOLA

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Philadelphia Eagles general manager Howie Roseman answers questions from the media. GETTY IMAGE

Eagles to explore all avenues at running back this offseason

The Eagles will have unlimited options at their disposal to upgrade the RB spot.

JOVAN ALFORD
jovan.alford@metro.us

The Philadelphia Eagles, who have not had a feature back since LeSean McCoy, will more than likely address the position either in free agency or in the 2019 NFL Draft. Last season, the team used a total of six running backs due to various injuries to Jay Ajayi, Darren Sproles and Corey Clement.

Ajayi suffered a torn ACL in Week 5, thus ending his season, while Sproles dealt with a nagging hamstring injury and Clement missed the last few games with a knee injury.

With that being said, the only healthy running backs the Eagles had for a majority of the season were Wendell Smallwood and undrafted free agent Josh Adams.

Even though Adams and Smallwood had their moments of brilliance down the stretch, it was clear that the Eagles needed a dynamic workhorse back.

On Wednesday at the NFL scouting combine, Eagles Executive Vice President of Football Operations Howie Roseman was asked about the team's plans at running back.

To his credit, Roseman gave an interesting response, leaving the door open for the team to do a litany of things.

"There's different ways to skin a cat," he said. "We won a world championship two years ago and we got LeGarrette [Blount] in free agency in May and traded for Jay. I traded for Darren Sproles, had some late picks and UDFAs that have worked out. We're not going to force any position."

While Roseman is right in saying that they did win a Super Bowl two years ago with an eclectic running back-by-committee system, they still need to make a considerable investment in the position.

If you do not believe me, just take a look back at Super Bowl 53. The New England Patriots invested a first-round pick in Sony Michel, who had 931 yards on 209 carries and six touchdowns during the regular season.

Then in the playoffs, Michel duplicated his performance from the regular season with six touchdowns on the ground and 336 rushing yards.

The Los Angeles Rams, however, drafted Todd Gurley with the 10th-overall pick in the 2015 NFL Draft. Gurley has been phenomenal for the Rams over the last two seasons in both the running and receiving games.

Therefore, the proof is there that investing in the running back position pays huge dividends. But when it comes to the Eagles, they haven't drafted a running back in the first two rounds since McCoy.

As previously mentioned, Philly is in an interesting spot as they could draft a running back with one of their two second-round picks. According to Mike Kaye of NJ.com, the Eagles have formally met with Iowa State's David Montgomery.

Montgomery had an outstanding last two seasons with the Cyclones, rushing for over 1,000 yards twice and being a factor in the receiving game. He and Florida Atlantic's Devin Singletary have been mocked to the Eagles in various drafts.

However, if the Eagles do not want to use their second-round pick on a running back, they might look at the trade market or free agency.

Jason LaCanfora of CBS Sports mentioned on Wednesday that the Chicago Bears are interested in trading Jordan Howard, while Latavius Murray, who spent the last two seasons with the Minnesota Vikings, is reportedly looking for an opportunity to start.

GETTY IMAGES

Report: Eagles open to trading Nelson Agholor

Throughout the early stages of this offseason, there has been a lot of discussion surrounding the Philadelphia Eagles and what they will do at the wide receiver position next season.

Among the topics that have been discussed at length is the future of wide receiver Nelson Agholor. Over the last two seasons, the 25-year-old has exploded onto the scene, becoming a valuable slot wide receiver.

This past season, the former USC product had 64 receptions (97 targets) for 736 yards and four touchdowns. However, he is also carrying a $9.4 million base salary heading into next season, which could hinder the Eagles' free agency plans.

With all that being known, Jason La Canfora of CBS Sports reported on Wednesday that the Eagles are "open" to moving the former first-round pick. It does not come as a surprise to hear that Philly is open to moving the 25-year-old as they could free up around $9.4 million in cap space, according to OverTheCap.com.

The Eagles could use his money to either address other positions on the team or re-sign veteran wide receiver Golden Tate III. According to Spotrac.com, Tate's calculated market is a three-year deal worth $30 million with an AAV (average annual salary) of $10.2 million.

Nevertheless, it would take a substantial amount for Philly to move Agholor, especially since their wide receiver core is fairly thin.

As of right now, the only wide receivers the Eagles have under contract for next season are Alshon Jeffery, Mack Hollins, Shelton Gibson, Johnny Holton, Braxton Miller, Carlton Agudosi, Marken Michel, Dorren Miller and Agholor.

Out of those players listed, Jeffery, Agholor and Hollins are the only locks to make the 53-man roster. Gibson could make the team, but would need to have another outstanding preseason.

Therefore, the only way the Eagles should move Agholor is for a draft pick, preferably a 2019 third-round selection. They could get a player in exchange for the slot wideout, but he may carry a higher cap number, which would defeat the purpose.

However, with a pick in the third round, they could use that on a wide receiver or maybe a running back. JOVAN ALFORD

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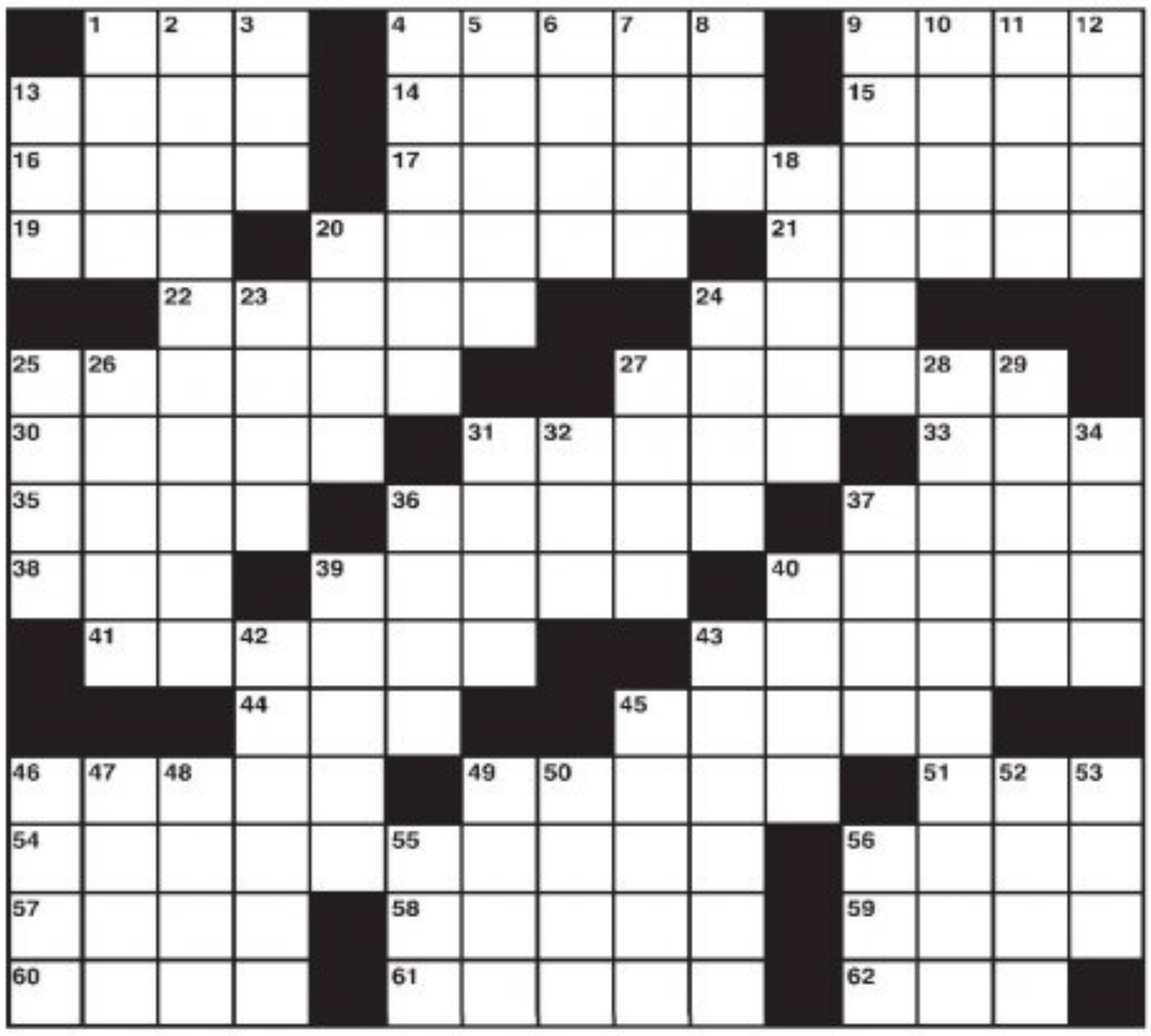

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ACROSS

1 As blind as a __
4 Beasts of burden
9 Tight hold
13 __ up; tie snugly
14 Window covering
15 Actress Turner
16 Landers & others
17 Songfests
19 "__ walked out in the streets of Laredo..."
20 Like BBQ sauce
21 Eggs on
22 TV's Mandel
24 Actress MacGraw
25 __ cord; part of the central nervous system
27 Become wide; swell
30 Prison units
31 Spinnaker & jib
33 "__ Jude"; Beatles hit
35 "Queen for __" of old TV
36 Arms and legs
37 Marseilles mom
38 One not to be trusted
39 June honorees
40 "Ave __"
41 Gets the hang of
43 First of two
44 Cover
45 Shakespearean lover
46 Car rental agency
49 Pitt & Garrett
51 Feminine pronoun
54 Unable to tell red from green
56 Stick around
57 Throw
58 Cop's ID
59 Mulgrew or Winslet
60 Classic dog's name
61 Merriment
62 Part of TGIF

DOWN

1 Canisters
2 Wipe out
3 49ers' goals, for short
4 Attack
5 Glow
6 Crooned
7 Nervous
8 Body of water
9 Singer Estefan
10 __ out; pealed
11 "Bus Stop" playwright
12 Go by
13 Lamb's cry
18 Soothes; puts to sleep
20 "__ the night before Christmas..."
23 "It's __ a matter of time"
24 Feels sick
25 Skin mark
26 Brake or accelerator
27 Has __ on; claims in advance
28 Temperature regulator
29 Spooky
31 Tiny drinks
32 "I __ Rock"; Simon & Garfunkel hit
34 Period of time
36 Terra firma
37 Female animal
39 __ to; before
40 Many PTA members
42 Just about
43 Silo contents
45 Stove
46 Doesn't just sit there
47 Stunt pilot's maneuver
48 To boot
49 Feeling __; in a funk
50 Carousel or Ferris wheel
52 Sombreros
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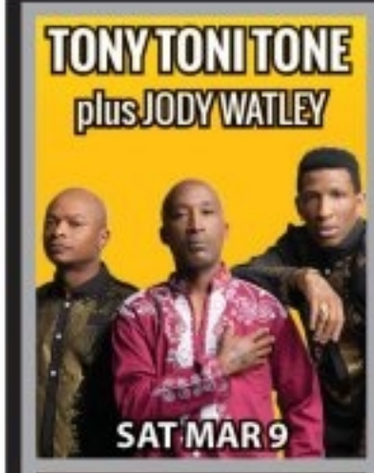

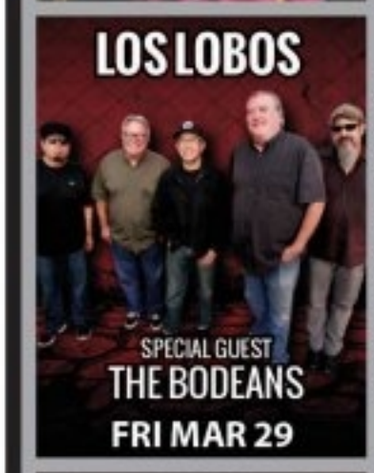

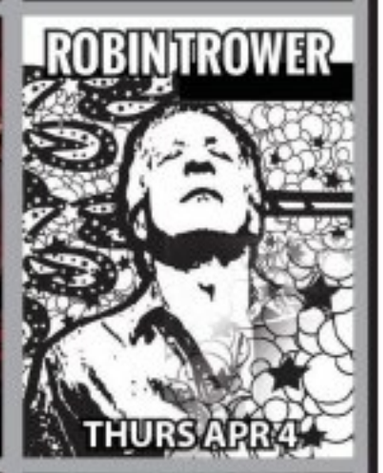

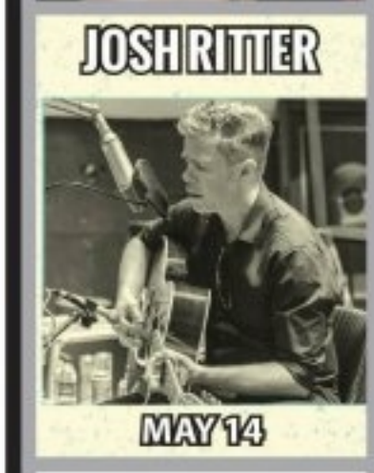

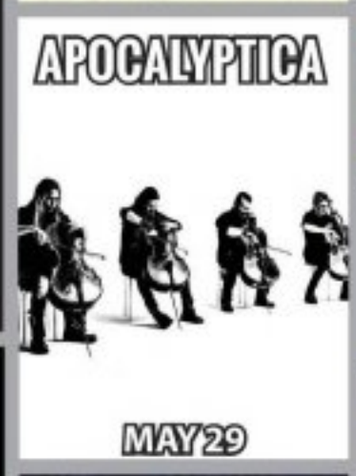

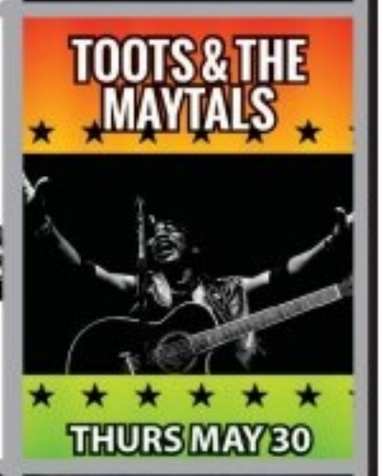

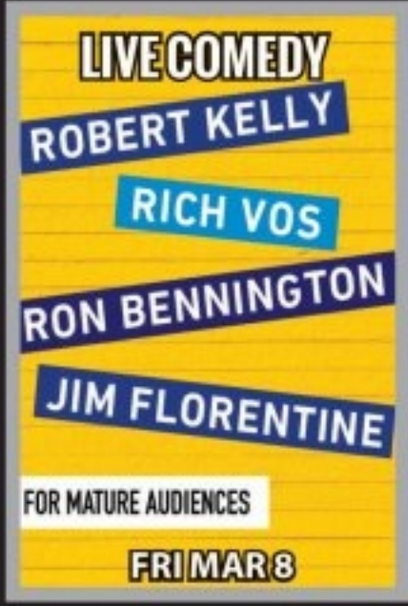

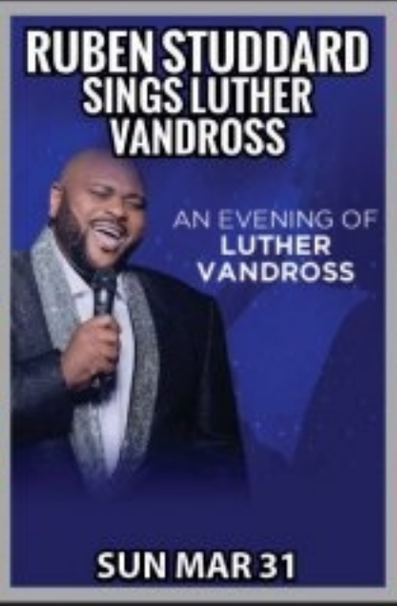

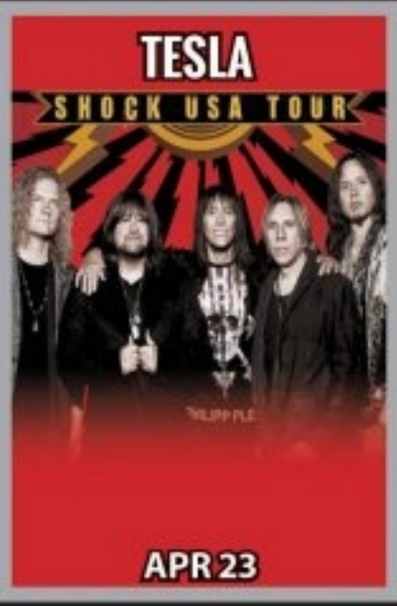

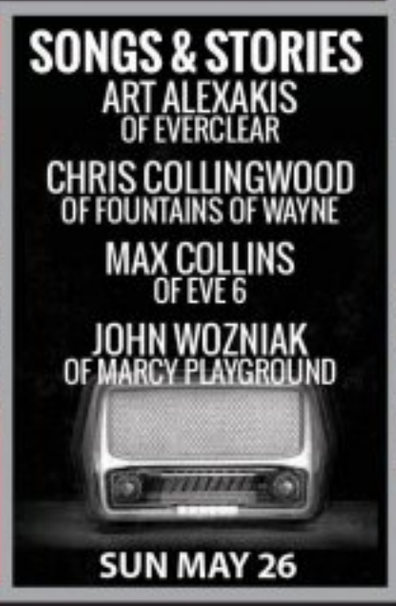

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